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Selectmen get draft of long-range plan

By John Chaffee
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Duxbury

DUXBURY — A plan to guide Duxbury into the next century and beyond was presented to selectmen last night.

The plan, which was prepared by Victor DeSantis of Raynham, a consultant who has taught at Bridgewater State College and the University of North Texas, reflects the results of the 1995 survey of registered voters and the recommendations of town department heads.

"It really is your plan," Town Manager Rocco Longo told the three selectmen.

In the survey, 26 percent of the town's 9,000 registered voters told selectmen that they should deal with several issues in drafting a long-range plan for submission to town meeting: maintain the town's residential character, ensure that the town has enough clean drinking water, continue to provide good public education and keep the tax rate stable.

The draft plan includes those issues and calls for:

- Improving the response time for fire and medical services.
- New bicycling and walking paths and sidewalks.
- Expanding the town-owned North Hill golf course from nine

holes to 18.

- A single telephone exchange.
- A centrally located senior-citizen center.
- More affordable housing, particularly for elders.

Selectmen said they will review the plan, add their comments and present it to the annual town meeting March 8.

In other business, selectmen:

- Heard planning board Chairman Andre Martecchini talk about nine planning-related articles on the annual town meeting warrant, some of which may prove controversial and some of which may be indefinitely postponed.

- Approved Harbormaster-Shellfish Constable Donald Beers' recommendation to declare a bonus shellfish harvesting season in February for the commercial harvesting of softshell clams and quahogs and the recreational harvesting of softshell clams.

- Heard Longo announce that the state's architectural access board has cited Duxbury's beach access ramp as a "gracious, responsive" project that "reflects the commitment of support to people with disabilities."